

Finance & economics

Upward momentum

# Why high inflation will persist in America well into the new year

Regardless of policy or the pandemic, price surges have their own remorseless mathematics

Dec 10th 2021

ANOTHER MONTH, [another multi-decade high](#) in American inflation. The consumer-price index increased by 6.8% in November compared with a year earlier, according to figures released on December 10th—the fastest pace since 1982. If these headlines about inflation highs seem like clockwork in America, that is because, to a significant extent, they now are. Such are the basic mathematics of year-on-year price trends. The [surge in inflation](#) since the start of 2021 means that it is guaranteed to remain elevated in annual terms for a while to come. A relatively optimistic forecast would have inflation returning to its pre-pandemic norm only at the very end of 2022.



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